GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3200
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2008
SUBMERGENCE OF ISLANDS INTO SEA
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to recent rise in sea level, many Islands of the country have been submerged into the sea;

(b) if so, whether many more such Islands are under threat of submergence due to global warming;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Kolkata School of Oceanography has submitted a report to the Union Government in this regard;

(e) if so, whether the Government has studied the said report; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) No Sir. Submergence is reported in two islands within the Indian part of Sundarbans delta system, namely Lohachara (inhabited) and Suparibhanga (un-inhabited). Another island Ghoramara has lost 41% of it's land area between 1970-2000. Causes for such submergence may not be due to global warming as the recorded increase in sea level (1.29mm/year average) is insignificant.

(b)-(c) Does not arise.

(d)- (f) No Sir. However a report entitled, "Vulnerability Assessment in Climate change Scenario: A Pilot Study on Ecologically Sensitive Sundarban Island System, West Bengal" by the School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata was submitted to the Winrock International India in March 2003.